

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

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REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

EVALUATION See below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 29 April and 15 to 31 May 1951

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

22 June 1951

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REFERENCES

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PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 17 May, [redacted] from German kitchen helpers in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne, Rathenow (N 53/2 15), that the troops there numbered 68 officers, 400 EM, and 150 recruits. The bays for the artillery pieces were empty. Driving-school trucks leaving the installation. (1)

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2. On 17 May 1951, the Pioneer Kaserne quartered about 400 troops. No heavy weapons were seen. Trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] emerged from the gate which is jointly used by the troops in the Pioneer Kaserne and the Infanterie Kaserne. German kitchen helpers stated that the Infanterie Kaserne quartered 90 officers, 250 EM, and 80 recruits. The troops in all three barracks installations were engaged in basic infantry drill. Only a few sections of 12 men each were seen practicing with radio and telephone equipment at the drill field. (1) Documents found in the area between the Pioneer Kaserne and the Kraftfahrer Kaserne on 17 May included:

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3. On 17 May, a bakery unit of 25 men was observed in a building in Rathenow-Albertsheim, west of the Rathenow-Hohenauen highway. Next to the quarters of the bakery unit, on the connecting canal between Hohenauen Lake and the Havel River, there was an installation which quartered German female labor service personnel prior to 1945. Expatriees who had been quartered in the installation were recently evicted. Seven officers wearing artillery insignia and about 80 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen there on 17 May. A German driver employed at the Kech construction office on Schuetzenstrasse stated that a Soviet motor pool was to be established in Rathenow-Albertsheim. (3)

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CLASSIFICATION

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4. Seventeen boxcars, which were loaded with ammunition in the ration supply depot, Rathenow-North, on 25 May, 3 boxcars carrying troops, and 2 boxcars loaded with fuel drums were dispatched to Altengrabow on 26 May. Thirty-five boxcars with ammunition from Guestrin arrived at Rathenow on 30 May. Fifteen coaches with 30 officers and 150 EM, and 3 boxcars with baggage were dispatched from Rathenow-North to Frankfurt/Oder on 31 May. It was said that the troops were discharges. (4)

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5. On 29 April, a German driver employed by the Soviets stated that about 12,000 rounds of 120-mm shells were stored in the ration supply depot on Mittelfeldweg. The driver based his estimate on his experience as an artilleryman.

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[] Comments

(1) The recruits [] arrived in Rathenow in mid-April and early May 1951, were probably retained at the post for basic training prior to joining their units at Altengrabow in the course of the summer. []

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(2) [] belong to components of the 5th Arty Div in Rathenow.

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(3) The statements by the Koch driver require substantiation.

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(4) Compare [] on eastbound troop shipments leaving the Soviet Zone of Germany via Guestrin between 30 May and 1 June 1951.

The officers and EM mentioned in the present report are believed to have been repatriated for demobilization.

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